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**Route To:** (5100)

**Date:** September 17, 2014

**Subject:** Fire Management Planning Guide

**To:** Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director and Deputy Chiefs

Starting in Fiscal Year 2014, the Forest Service (FS) will transition to spatial planning and discontinue the use of the Interagency Fire Management Plan (FMP) Template. The FS will also replace its handbook direction (previous FSH 5109.19) with a Fire Management Planning Guide that further describes Spatial Fire Planning and the Fire Management Reference System (FMRS). As allowed in the Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP), fire response strategies should be consistent with the Cohesive Strategy and developed in collaboration with adjoining land managers. This Guide is at [http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/fire/fmp/fire\\_management\\_planning\\_guide\\_draft.docx](http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/fire/fmp/fire_management_planning_guide_draft.docx).

Current Federal Fire Policy states that every burnable acre of federally-managed land should have a Fire Management Plan (FMP). The Policy intent is to ensure that the management of wildfire for resource objectives is considered along with suppression options, as allowed by LRMP direction. The LRMP, already compiled with public input using National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedures, is the guide for fire response. To streamline implementation of the Federal Fire Policy in maintaining and improving the conditions of fire-adapted landscapes in accordance with the LRMP desired conditions, the FS will phase out the use of narrative FMPs and transition to spatial fire planning and a Fire Management Reference System (FMRS). This new planning process is intended to help fire managers more fully implement their fire management programs at a landscape scale, a principle of the Cohesive Strategy.

A spatial planning process will be a better tool to implement the LRMP than a narrative FMP and meet the intent of Federal Wildland Fire Policy because it will visually represent LRMP direction across the landscape, which is helpful for collaboration with adjoining land managers and decision making for incident management. FS FMPs will be replaced with a combination of enhanced Spatial Planning contained in the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) and the FMRS, a collection of plans required for fire program management, such as aviation, operations, dispatch, and fire danger operating plan products. Fire Management Planning will be a continuing effort to ensure that guidance represented spatially in WFDSS and the FMRS are consistent with LRMP direction, reflecting available fire response options to move from current to desired conditions.



FY 2014 & 2015 will be transitional years, and by the 2016 fire season, all units will be using spatial planning and a FMRS. Assistance in developing the FMRS and spatial planning in WFDSS is available from Regional Fire Planners and the Wildland Fire Management Research Development and Application group (<http://www.wfmrda.nwcg.gov>). Please contact Laura Barrett at (208) 387-5914 or [lbarrett@fs.fed.us](mailto:lbarrett@fs.fed.us) with questions or for more information.

*/s/ James E. Hubbard*

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Enclosure